

IN RE: Application of Sigfield Water Company, Inc.) ORDER
for Approval of an Increase in its Rates and) GRANTING
Charges for Water Service.) REHEARING

The Consumer Advocate stated three grounds in its Petition. The Consumer Advocate alleges that we failed to make findings of fact supported by the evidence of record in accepting Staff's amortization period for rate case expenses and Staff's calculation of income taxes. Further, the Consumer Advocate stated that our decision to accept Staff's calculation of income taxes is arbitrary, capricious, etc. Sigfield filed a Petition for Reconsideration in this matter, based on the fact that no rate increase was granted to residential customers, and no increase in tap fees for commercial customers was granted. Sigfield also complains about our rejection of the amount for the management agreement between the Company and Harold A. Sigmon, Sr. and/or Sumter Reforestation, Inc. Further, Sigfield objects to our decision on operating margin, our

acceptance of Staff's adjustment to depreciation expense, and our reduction to DHEC testing expense. Finally, Sigfield alleges that our decision does not comport with *Porter v. Public Service Commission*, 333 S.C. 12, 507 S.E. 2d 328 (1998).

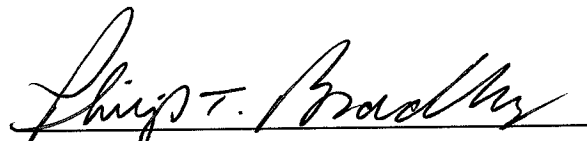
Sigfield filed a Response to the Consumer Advocate's Petition in which it asserted that the provisions of both Sigfield's original Petition for Reconsideration and the Consumer Advocate's Petition for Rehearing and Reconsideration, when considered in the aggregate, constitute all material provisions of the decretal portion of Order No. 1999-281. Therefore, under Sigfield's theory, both parties are aggrieved by the totality of Order No. 1999-281, and the matter should be reconsidered and/or reheard.

It appears that both Sigfield and the Consumer Advocate agree that this case should be reconsidered and/or reheard in its totality. This is not the first case where multiple parties have questioned the rulings of this Commission, nor, we are sure, will this be the last. However, in this particular case, it is apparent that both of the major parties have major difficulties with almost every one of our rulings in the case. Accordingly, on this basis, and only in this particular case because of unusual circumstances, we grant rehearing. We cannot say that our pronouncements in Order No. 1999-281 will change, but we believe that the difficulties that both of the major parties have with our rulings in this case make a rehearing appropriate. We hereby put the regulatory bar on notice that we do not expect to grant this relief on a routine basis. We only grant rehearing in this matter since it appears to be under the extremely unusual posture wherein almost every one of our rulings in the case has been challenged. We believe that a rehearing will allow us to once again hear the testimony and consider again

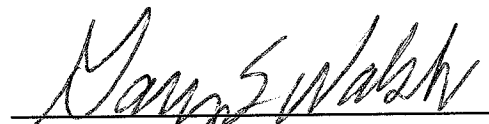
the evidence, and, therefore, whether the provisions of our Order No. 1999-281 should remain in force.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)